

Washington, DC -- Congressman Vern Buchanan (FL-13) announced today that Sarasota County has been awarded a \$1 million grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation. The federal funding was secured by Buchanan to help Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) expand the county's bus rapid transit fleet of fuel efficient vehicles.

"This project will help the county expand its fleet with the most fuel-efficient vehicles and the latest technology," said Buchanan. "It will enhance their ability to provide safe, economical, clean and comfortable transportation services to areas with high ridership."

"Sarasota County is grateful for the receipt of this grant," said Jon Thaxton, Sarasota County Commission Chair. "The timing is perfect as this grant enables us to complete the Alternative Analysis necessary to bring about a Bus Rapid Transit System to provide additional mobility options to the community. We thank Congressman Buchanan for his support and help in Sarasota County being able to acquire these federal funds."

The funding was included in the Fiscal Year 2009 Omnibus Appropriations Act passed by Congress in February.

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